



Fact Sheet

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More Smiling Faces in Beautiful Places

What is “More Smiling Faces in Beautiful Places”?

“More Smiling Faces in Beautiful Places” is a statewide partnership led by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control aimed at promoting optimum oral health for South Carolina’s children. South Carolina’s statewide oral health partnership has received a \$960,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to launch the project.

“More Smiling Faces in Beautiful Places” will be launched in Chesterfield, Marlboro, Marion, Greenwood, McCormick and Hampton counties. The three-year grant will enable South Carolina to work with local communities to:

- Develop an integrated oral health network of public and private health providers.
- Provide training in pediatric oral health to all members of the medical and dental teams.
- Provide outreach to the medical community to integrate oral health promotion and disease prevention into the medical home.
- Create a system to link medical homes with oral health care providers.
- Empower parents and families through educational guidance and support to become effective managers of their children’s oral health care needs.



What makes this initiative innovative?

According to former Surgeon General David Satcher, oral health is an integral part of a person’s overall health and well-being. The goal of “More Smiling Faces in Beautiful Places” is to link oral health with total health through awareness and empowerment of oral health professionals, medical professionals, and, most importantly, parents of young children and children and adolescents with special health needs.

Who are the partners?

- Palmetto Project
- Medical University of South Carolina, College of Dental Medicine
- South Carolina Department of Education
- South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
- South Carolina Rural Health Access Program
- South Carolina American Academy of Pediatrics
- South Carolina Dental Association
- South Carolina Dental Hygiene Association
- Head Start
- Special Olympics, Special Smiles
- Carolina Community Health Center
- AME Churches
- Family Connection